

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for considering the pending application. The Office Action dated January 09, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 12 has been amended, and claims 1-11 and 17-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 12-16 are presently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 24 as containing allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,629) in view of Kwak (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,878), Gu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,672) and Watanabe et al. (US 2003/0086041). The Office Action rejects claims 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,629) in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,582,862). The Office Action rejects claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kataoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,178) in view of Zhong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,067), Kwak (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,878), Gu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,672) and Watanabe et al. (US 2003/0086041).

Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 12 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 24, which has been indicated to be allowable. As such, amended claim 12 is now allowable over the cited references. Claims 13-16 variously depend on claim 12 and thus are allowable over the cited references at least for the same reasons as claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

The application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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